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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

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ANNUAL REPORT

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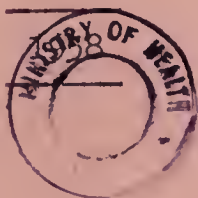
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.



Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.
(Telephone No. Redhill 2265/6)

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TERENCE BRAY (from 25th August, 1958)

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE,
January 1, 1901.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1900

ALBANY:

WILLIAM H. BROWN, COMMISSIONER

OF THE LAND OFFICE

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OF THE LAND OFFICE

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Oakley and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1958. The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 22/58, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

In most respects the vital statistics for 1958 compare favourably with those previously recorded in the Borough and with those for the country as a whole. The birth rate of 15.0 is the highest for the past five years and is only slightly less than the average for the preceding ten years, in which are included some of the exceptionally high birth rates recorded in the immediate post-war years. The proportion of infants who died in their first year (20 per 1,000 live births) and of those registered as stillborn (17.0 per 1,000 total births) are both somewhat greater than in 1957, but are still well below the average for the Borough and are less than the corresponding rates for England and Wales, which were 22 and 21.4, respectively.

The crude death rate of 13.1 is also the highest for five years, but is no greater than would be expected in a population with an age group constitution such as that of Reigate. When adjusted for comparison, the crude rate is reduced to 10.6, which compares with the national death rate of 11.7 in the same period. The rise in the death rate is almost entirely confined to persons of both sexes in the very advanced age groups. Attention is drawn to the very sharp increase in the numbers of deaths attributed to cancer and malignant disease and, in particular, to the alarming rise in mortality from cancer of the lung, predominantly amongst males. Other diseases of the lungs, for example pneumonia and bronchitis, and to a lesser extent affections of the heart and circulation, were also associated with very greatly increased mortality and in many instances occurred as a terminal or degenerative condition linked with senility. It is regrettable to note that there has been no decline in the number of deaths resulting from maternal causes and from all forms of violence, including motor vehicle accidents.

The rates of prevalence of the various acute infectious diseases were, without exception, very much lower than usual and markedly so as regards whooping cough and acute poliomyelitis. To what extent the striking fall in the incidence of the latter may be directly due to protective inoculation can only be definitely assessed by study and observation of the epidemiological behaviour of both diseases over a fairly long period. There was also a welcome decline in the prevalence of all forms of tuberculosis, the case rate for the respiratory form of the disease being by far the lowest experienced in the Borough for the past twenty years. Reference might also be made to the relative absence of cases of gastro-intestinal infection, including food poisoning of bacterial origin.

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With regard to the prevention of infectious illness, attention is again drawn to the satisfactory rates of acceptance of protective inoculation against the range of diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available. The most noteworthy advance in this field during the year was the extension of the age groups eligible for vaccination against poliomyelitis and the increased supplies of vaccine for the purpose. Concentration on this aspect of the immunisation programme inevitably resulted in some slight reduction in the numbers immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough, but arrears in these respects are now being rapidly overtaken.

The care, and more particularly the domiciliary care, of the aged and incapacitated who are unable to give proper attention to themselves or their immediate surroundings can rightly be regarded as one of the most important and difficult social problems of our time. Although there is no organised system of visiting for the ascertainment of such cases, there is reason to believe that most of them eventually come to official notice. The essential needs of many could be more easily and quickly supplied if their difficulties and circumstances were reported at an early stage. Although the domiciliary assistance required in most of these cases is supplied through the County Council's Services, the Borough Public Health Department also has responsibility in the matter and is not infrequently called upon for help that is not obtainable from other sources, especially where action for compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable premises may appear to be advisable.

Brief reference is made to further progress during the year in implementing the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit houses and to the measures taken to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, the prevention of atmospheric pollution, sanitary inspection, supervision of caravan and camping sites, duties under the Factories and Shops Acts, disinfection and disinfestation and other matters having a direct bearing on environmental hygiene. The satisfactory health record for the year would suggest that these and other activities of the Public Health Department are, in part at least, achieving the results expected of them.

I have again to acknowledge my indebtedness to the members of my staff for the conscientious service they have consistently given. Although Mr. Janes, the Chief Public Health Inspector, was on sick leave for some weeks in the latter part of the year, he kept in contact with the work of the Department and was available, if required, to advise on matters coming within his particular province; the assistance so given is keenly appreciated. My thanks are due also to officials engaged in other Departments of the Corporation for their assistance and close co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration they have very kindly extended to me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Oakley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.H.BINGHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

Caberfeigh,
Redhill.

26th August, 1959.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	.. .. .	10,255 Acres
Population, Census 1951	.. .. .	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1958	.. .. .	49,760
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1958 according to Rate Books	.. .. .	15,065
Rateable Value (1958)	.. .. .	£850,875
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£3,350

Population

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year, 1958 was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 49,760. This represents a population increment of 430, or 0.8 per cent., in the preceding twelve months, of which 95 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. the number by which the live births exceeded the total deaths) and 335 to migration into the area. The population gains under both headings are much smaller than usual.

Births

A total of 750 live infants (386 males and 364 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore 15.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 13.8 in 1957, 14.2 in 1956 and an average rate of 14.2 for the preceding five years. To make allowance for differences in the age and sex distribution of the local population as compared with that of the country as a whole, and to take into account the presence of sterile population in certain institutions in the Borough, the recorded birth rate is adjusted by the application of an "area comparability factor". When so adjusted the local birth rate for 1958 is advanced to 15.2, which compares with 16.4 for England and Wales.

The illegitimacy rate was 34 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 36 per 1,000 in 1957.

The advance in the birth rate in 1958 was accompanied by a rise in the mortality of infants under the age of one year and in the proportion registered as stillborn, though in each case the rate remained appreciable below the corresponding rate for the country as a whole. All the infant deaths took place in hospital and two-thirds of them were of babies under the age of four weeks; ten were attributed to prematurity and gross congenital defect, four to respiratory infection and one to accidental causes.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere and members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 655, of which 318 were of males and 337 of females.

The death rate calculated on this total is 13.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 11.61 in 1957 and 12.14 in 1956. When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the local rate is reduced to 10.6, which compares with 11.7 for England and Wales in the same period.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 year	..	12	3	15
1 - 5 years	..	1	-	1
5 - 10 years	..	-	2	2
10 - 15 years	..	1	1	2
15 - 20 years	..	2	-	2
20 - 30 years	..	5	1	6
30 - 40 years	..	4	4	8
40 - 50 years	..	14	18	32
50 - 60 years	..	37	32	69
60 - 70 years	..	70	49	119
70 - 80 years	..	84	86	170
80 - 90 years	..	80	109	189
90 and upwards	..	8	32	40
		<u>318</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>655</u>

The advance in the recorded death rate in 1958 was in the main due to the greater number of deaths of persons in the older age groups and affected both sexes almost equally.

There was a sharp increase in the mortality ascribed to all forms of cancer and malignant disease, a total of 126 deaths from this cause being recorded, as compared with 88 in 1957, 97 in 1956 and an annual average of 86 in the preceding ten years. With regard to the particular organs affected, the greatest increase was observed in the number of males dying from cancer of the lung, which has assumed increasing prominence in mortality statistics in recent years. The number of such deaths in 1958 was double that in 1957, when the figure coincided with the average for the preceding decade. There was an almost equal increase in the number of women who died from malignant disease of the breast and reproductive organs.

Acute and chronic respiratory diseases made rather more than their usual contribution to the general death rate, while the numbers of deaths ascribed to heart disease and all forms of violence, including motor vehicle accidents, were proportionately greater than in the previous year. There were relatively very few deaths from acute infectious diseases, including infective conditions of the gastro-intestinal tract.

The numbers of deaths ascribed to other specified causes are set out in Table III and do not differ significantly from those recorded in recent years.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

It was not necessary to exercise the powers given under this Section to secure the removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons who were suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, were living in insanitary conditions and were unable to devote to themselves, and were not receiving from others, the care and attention they required.

There were four cases in which it appeared that such action should be considered. All were elderly women who lived alone and, though physically quite incapable of giving proper attention to themselves or their surroundings, they had firmly refused institutional care or the domiciliary help that was available and offered to them by official and voluntary bodies.

Two of these cases were in urgent need of regular medical and nursing attention which could not properly be given in their own homes and arrangements were accordingly made for compulsory removal; the persons concerned then agreed to go into hospital voluntarily. Appropriate measures were taken to remedy the insanitary condition of the premises they had vacated in preparation for their return from hospital.

With compulsory removal as the alternative, the other two cases were induced to accept the domiciliary help available to them and which proved to be sufficient to effect such improvement in the general standard of care and in the sanitary condition of the premises that further action was not necessary. Both these cases were kept under regular supervision.

Reference should again be made to the assistance and close co-operation of Mr. Lovelock, the Principal Divisional Welfare Officer, in dealing with these cases. In three instances the Chief Public Health Inspector and his assistants voluntarily undertook the very disagreeable task of cleansing grossly insanitary premises and the removal and destruction of fouled domestic items and personal effects as a preliminary to the supply of domestic assistance under the Home Help scheme; the services thus given are deserving of high commendation.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year are set out in Table I and comparative statistics for the years 1934 to 1958 are shown in Table II. The numbers of deaths from specified causes are classified in Table III.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births:-</u>									
Legitimate	..	..	Males	372	Females	352	Total	724	
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	14	Females	12	Total	26	
Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.0	
Do. 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.8	
Do. for the five years 1953 to 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2	
<u>Still Births</u>									
Legitimate	..	..	Males	4	Females	8	Total	12	
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	1	Females	-	Total	1	
Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.0	
Do. do 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6	
<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>									
			Males	391	Females	372	Total	763	
<u>Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births</u>								3.4	
<u>Infant Mortality:-</u>									
Deaths of infants under the age of one year:-									
Legitimate	..	..	Males	12	Females	3	Total	15	
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-	
Infant Death Rate:-									
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.0	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.7	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	
Deaths of infants under the age of 4 weeks:-									
Legitimate	..	..	Males	10	Females	-	Total	10	
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births								13.3	
<u>Maternal Mortality:-</u>									
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion								2	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								2.6	
<u>Deaths (nett):-</u>									
Males	..	318	Females	..	337	Total	655		
Do. 1957:-									
Males	..	283	Females	..	281	Total	564		
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.1	
Do. 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6	
Do. for the five years 1953 to 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.4	
<u>Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions</u>								50.8	
<u>Deaths from:-</u>									
Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126	
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	

TABLE II

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1934 - 1958

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
						Reigate	England
1934	35,400	417	12.4	409	11.5	39	59
1935	35,720	399	11.8	407	11.3	52	57
1936	36,000	456	13.2	443	12.3	36	59
1937	36,360	451	13.0	447	12.2	40	58
1938	36,630	478	13.6	415	11.3	32	53
1939	37,090	463	13.1	454	11.7	34	50
1940	41,970	447	11.1	579	14.2	34	55
1941	42,040	519	13.6	574	13.6	67	59
1942	40,060	581	16.5	496	12.3	45	49
1943	38,400	565	16.6	509	13.2	45	49
1944	36,360	593	17.9	524	14.4	41	46
1945	36,670	492	15.5	497	13.5	33	46
1946	39,690	677	18.9	493	12.4	32	43
1947	40,480	744	19.6	534	13.2	20	41
1948	41,770	611	15.6	453	10.8	28	34
1949	42,150	592	14.8	518	12.3	37	32
1950	42,030	554	13.7	564	13.4	22	30
1951	42,220	530	13.2	551	13.0	20	29
1952	42,460	599	14.4	532	12.5	21	27
1953	44,890	654	15.2	637	14.2	30	26
1954	47,610	666	14.4	572	12.0	13	25
1955	48,180	637	13.6	585	12.1	17	25
1956	48,730	663	14.3	592	12.1	7	24
1957	49,330	681	13.8	564	11.6	13	23
1958	49,760	750	15.1	655	13.2	20	22

TABLE III

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate
during 1958

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2	5
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parastic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	5	14
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	26	3	29
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	18	18
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	8	8
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	33	57
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	2	8	10
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	39	53	92
18. Coronary disease, angina	64	41	105
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	10	16
20. Other heart disease	39	57	96
21. Other circulatory disease	10	16	26
22. Influenza	6	4	10
23. Pneumonia	17	17	34
24. Bronchitis	16	11	27
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	-	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	2	2
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	27	57
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7
34. All other accidents	3	11	14
35. Suicide	4	2	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals .	318	337	655

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year, except in connection with new building development.

All dwelling-houses in the Borough, with the exception of 52, have a continuous and direct supply of water from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty to forty gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination, was invariably reported to be very satisfactory.

The 52 dwelling houses without a continuous and direct supply of mains water include twelve cottages which derive their supply from a private well, one bungalow dwelling which has a piped supply from a nearby spring and thirty-nine cottages with an intermediate storage tank.

The private well referred to above is of artesian type and formerly supplied a mineral water factory and group of cottages in the Reigate Heath district. The factory closed down in the latter part of 1957, but the well water is still pumped to a storage tank which supplies the cottages. Samples examined in April and November were reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality. On a previous occasion the Analyst reported that the water from this source had a distinctly acid reaction and a high content of free carbon dioxide and was thereby liable to have a corrosive action on metals; appropriate precautions have accordingly been taken in that connection. The question of connecting the cottages to the public supply is under consideration.

Samples of water from the intermediate storage tank supplying a group of thirty-nine cottages in Ladbroke Road, Redhill, were reported to reach a very high standard of chemical and bacterial purity. A similar report was obtained on examination of water from an artesian well supplying a mineral water factory in the Reigate district.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No new drainage works were carried out by the Corporation in 1958, but some 1300 lineal yards of foul sewer and 1600 yards of surface water sewer were laid by private enterprise in connection with housing development.

Most dwelling-houses in the Borough are on main drainage. There are, however, approximately 250 cesspools, in most instances receiving the drainage of one dwelling only. One-hundred and ninety-six cesspools are emptied periodically under arrangements made by the Borough Surveyor; those receiving the drainage of dwelling-houses are emptied free of charge twelve times a year, with a charge on an hourly basis for more frequent emptying, while cesspools at business premises are emptied on payment of the full cost by the occupiers. The Public Health Department investigated and took appropriate action to deal with three complaints regarding overflowing cesspools which might give rise to nuisance.

Thirty-five premises have a septic tank/filter bed system of sewage disposal. Five installations, draining ten of these properties, were overhauled and repaired during the year.

Several areas of the Borough were extensively flooded after a very heavy storm in the early part of September, when nearly two inches of rain fell in the course of an hour. In some localities there was a surcharge from the foul sewers, but this was so limited in amount and so greatly diluted with storm water that no special precautions in the interest of public health were considered to be necessary.

Closet Accommodation

The conservancy system of domestic sanitation has been almost completely replaced in the Borough by the water carriage system, but there are still thirteen properties where the only type of apparatus available is the pail or chemical closet and where sink waste liquids are discharged to some form of cesspool or soakaway. The properties concerned are small farm cottages situated on the rural outskirts of the district. There were no conversions to the water carriage system in 1958.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Special collections are made at the request of tradesmen or householders.

The conditions under which house and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, and householders have been assisted in this respect by an arrangement under which dustbins of approved pattern are available for sale at the Cleansing Department.

The separate collection of food wastes was continued throughout the year. This system largely obviates the use of domestic refuse bins as temporary storage receptacles for waste food and results in the production annually of roughly 700 tons of animal feeding stuffs. The withdrawal of the communal waste food bins in certain districts and the substitution therefor of individual containers on free loan to householders has been a very satisfactory and successful innovation.

The arrangements made for the extraction and salvage of waste paper, bottles, textiles, metals, etc., have continued in operation. The residue of the refuse, amounting to roughly 15,000 tones, is disposed of by incineration.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

No new licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1926, in respect of caravans intended for permanent residential use. Six existing licences were renewed, as compared with eleven in 1957. It is expected that the present policy of the Local Planning Authority to concentrate such caravans as far as possible on properly organised and licensed sites will lead to still further reduction in the number of individual licences granted.

The Corporation Caravan Site in Three Arches Road, Redhill, has accommodation for a maximum of forty caravans and is almost exclusively restricted to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so immediately available for very urgent or special cases. During 1958 there were seven new lettings and six families left the site; a total of forty-five families were in occupation at some time during the year. The site is visited at least once a week by a Public Health Inspector to ensure that it is properly conducted and that a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained in the ablution and sanitary blocks.

The three privately-owned sites in the Borough continued in use during 1958 and have accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. These sites also are regularly inspected and, on the whole, are very satisfactorily conducted and maintained. The occupier of one of these sites was required by Notice to undertake thorough cleansing and redecoration of the ablution building and the repair of defective concrete roadways on the site.

Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act, 1956)

There were twelve complaints of nuisance from smoke in 1958. These related to six premises with steam raising boilers - in two instances fired by oil and in four by solid fuel.

Nuisance from one of the oil-fired boilers occurred in the early stages of operation of the plant installed at a new block of offices and was satisfactorily abated by adjustment of the burners. The other oil-fired plant gave rise to serious nuisance by frequent and heavy emission of soot; this also was effectively remedied by modification of the plant on the advice of technical experts.

At three of the premises using solid fuel the emission of smoke was very greatly reduced following a change of fuel and improvement in the method of operation of the plant; at the fourth, these measures had little effect with the existing type of furnace and at the end of the year the advisability of conversion to oil firing was under consideration.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season and copies of the Analyst's reports were supplied to the Baths Superintendent. These reports indicated that the bacterial quality of the water was very satisfactory, but that its chemical composition was somewhat inferior by reason of its slightly acid reaction and its relatively high content of chloride and albuminoid nitrogen. The Analyst was of opinion that the organic quality of the water could not be maintained at a high standard with the original filling and he, accordingly, advised that both baths should be partially or completely emptied and refilled at a convenient opportunity. Further samples taken after the baths had been partly emptied and topped-up with mains water showed very marked improvement in organic quality.

The purification plants at both baths were extensively overhauled and partly renewed in the latter part of the year, thus greatly increasing their efficiency and capacity to deal effectively with heavier bathing loads.

Radication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1958 in relation to factory premises:-

1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	26	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	182	175	-	-
(iii) Others	29	23	-	-
TOTALS	236	224	-	-

2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	9	8	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	1	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	13	13	-	6	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork	7	7	-	1	-
TOTALS	31	28	-	8	-

3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

In compliance with the requirements of Section 110 (i) (c), notice was given by one local employer in respect of one out worker engaged on the making of wearing apparel.

Thirteen lists were received from other Authorities in relation to twenty-one out workers. It was found, on inspection, that the work was not in any instance being done in unwholesome premises.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Statistical particulars relating to the demolition, closure and repair of unfit houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1958, are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a)	(i) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, Section 42)	49
	(Cromwell Road, South Street, Tower Street and Mason's Bridge Road, Redhill)	
	(ii) Families rehoused from Clearance Areas ..	6
	(Cromwell Road, Redhill; Mason's Bridge Road, Redhill)	(22 persons)
(b)	Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 17) -	
	(i) Closed	2
	(25 & 27 Holmesdale Road, Reigate)	
	(ii) Families rehoused	13
	(including 12 families - 32 persons - from houses certified unfit)	(37 persons)
(c)	Unfit houses made fit -	
	(i) Informally - by owner	57
	(ii) After formal notice	Nil

The following information is of interest:-

(d)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	161
(e)	Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	68
(f)	Number of (e) above represented as unfit and suitable for statutory action -	
	(i) Under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957 ..	17
	(ii) Under Sections 16 & 17 Housing Act, 1957	3
	(iii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	16
(g)	(i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1958	Nil
	(ii) Number of cases relieved during 1958	2
	(iii) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1958	Nil

The clearance of unfit houses continued in 1958, which was the third year of the Council's five-year programme for dealing with such properties. All the houses formally represented under the Housing Acts in the first two years were demolished in 1958, with the exception of those included in the Reigate Borough (Cromwell Road and Cromwell Road North, Redhill) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957; in this case the Order was opposed by the owner of four of the houses, who contended that they were not unfit for human habitation and should qualify for the payments made in respect of well-maintained property. The owner's claims were not upheld by the Minister, who confirmed the Order without amendment.

In view of the official restriction on the building of Council houses, it was not practicable to take formal action in respect of all the 52 houses provisionally included in the third year of the Council's programme. Official representations were made in respect of 17 properties, comprised in two areas, namely, 8 houses included in the Reigate Borough (Marketfield Road, Redhill) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958, and 9 in the Reigate Borough (Brighton Road, Redhill) Clearance Area; the statutory procedure to be followed in the latter case has not yet been decided.

In addition to the above, 16 houses in Warwick Road, Redhill, which were in the ownership of the Corporation, were certified to be unfit for human habitation and were, accordingly, recommended for demolition.

It is of special interest to note that no case of statutory overcrowding was known to the Public Health Department at the end of the year.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year</u>	
	Erected by Borough Council	194
	Erected by private enterprise	267
		<hr/> 461
2.	<u>Number of flatlets for older people obtained from conversions</u>	19
3.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	70
	In permanent Council flats	96
	In prefabricated bungalows	5
	In old people's bungalows	7
	In miscellaneous property	30
		<hr/> 208
4.	<u>Families rehoused from unfit properties:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	10
	In permanent Council flats	7
	In prefabricated bungalows	1
	In old people's bungalows	1
		<hr/> 19
5.	<u>Families transferred from requisitioned properties:-</u>	
	To permanent Council dwellings	7
	To prefabricated bungalows	1
	To miscellaneous property	1
		<hr/> 9
6.	<u>Families transferred from one type of Council dwelling to another:-</u>	120
7.	<u>Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	11
8.	<u>Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	3

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1958 are summarised in Table IV, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

Of 8 samples of tuberculin-tested milk and 108 samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination, 93 passed the prescribed test for keeping quality; the test could not usefully be applied to the other 23 samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination. All the samples of pasteurised milk satisfied the phosphatase test, indicating that the heat treatment had been correctly and efficiently applied.

Eight samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Freedom from infection of this nature has been one of the most conspicuous and satisfactory features of reports on milk examination in recent years and is, no doubt, an indication of the efficacy of the measures adopted to combat it.

Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. There are now only two local producers of tuberculin-tested milk, which is sold by retail from a dairy in the Borough.

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Tuberculin-Tested: 8	8	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised): 50	38	-	12	50	-	-
Pasteurised: 58	47	-	11	58	-	-
Sterilised: 11	-	-	-	-	-	11

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
8	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twentyone dealers retailing milk in the area:-

		<u>Type of Licence</u>	<u>Number of Licences</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealer's	8	13
"	..	Supplementary	4	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	3	9
"	"	Supplementary	4	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	14	20
"		Supplementary	1	-

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

Chemical and Bacterial Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D.D.Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Seventeen samples of ice-cream from retailers in the Borough were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All were placed within provisional Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling.

There are now no premises in the Borough where ice-cream is manufactured for sale.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The disposal of notified cases to different hospitals during the year was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bletchingley	7 cases
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton	2 "
Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood	2 "
East Surrey Hospital, Redhill	10 "
Cuddington Hospital, Banstead	1 case
Western Hospital, Fulham	1 "

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table V shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No confirmed or suspected case of small-pox was reported in the Borough in 1958. Surveillance was exercised over a family consisting of father, mother and three children who were possible contacts of a virulent case of small-pox whilst returning from abroad. When the early symptoms of small-pox would have been expected to develop, the three children became fairly acutely ill, with rise of temperature and profuse skin eruption; they were typical cases of moderately severe chicken-pox with which, it transpired, they had also been in contact.

Scarlet Fever

The number of notified cases of scarlet fever is very much below the average. They were widely distributed and occurred mainly amongst children under the age of ten years. The disease was clinically very mild in type and in only seven instances was it thought necessary to advise removal to hospital. In accordance with modern practice no restrictions were imposed on immediate contacts, with the exception of those whose occupation might involve undue risk of spread of infection.

Diphtheria

For the seventh consecutive year, no confirmed or suspected case of diphtheria was reported.

Whooping Cough

The rate of prevalence of whooping cough in 1958 was the lowest yet observed in the Borough, a total of 23 cases being reported, as compared with 133 in 1957, 59 in 1956 and 267 in 1955. The illness in most cases was mild and of short duration, especially so in children who had previously been immunised against whooping cough, while many vaccinated children escaped infection though intimately exposed to it. No mortality was attributed to whooping cough or its complications.

The sharp decline in the incidence of whooping cough may well reflect the effectiveness of protective vaccination, though it will be necessary to observe the epidemiological character of the disease over a much longer period before the role and value of vaccination in the prevention of the disease can be accurately assessed.

Measles

There were relatively few cases of measles, most of which occurred in a small outbreak in the Merstham area in the late summer. Children under school age and new entrants to infants' schools were, as usual, chiefly affected. A case occurring in a residential nursery was removed to hospital; the remainder were visited by the Health Visitors who reported that facilities for home isolation were generally satisfactory.

Poliomyelitis

There were only two confirmed cases of poliomyelitis, as compared with 9 in 1957 and 26 in 1956. Both were paralytic in type and were removed to hospital. In each case there was some degree of residual paralysis, which is responding slowly to physiotherapy and other measures of rehabilitation.

Seven suspected cases of poliomyelitis were admitted to hospital for observation, but were not confirmed after full investigation.

Dysentery

The only reported case of dysentery was diagnosed on clinical evidence and was probably due to the Sonne type of organism, though this was not confirmed by laboratory examination. Appropriate action was taken in relation to immediate contacts, including a member of the household whose occupation involved the preparation and handling of food.

Pneumonia

The prevalence of acute pneumonia was very much lower than usual and was mainly confined to the first half of the year. The cases were fairly evenly scattered over the various age groups and in three instances were stated to be influenzal in type. Thirteen cases were treated in hospital; the remainder were visited by the Health Visitors with a view to the provision of nursing or domestic assistance, should it be necessary.

The mortality ascribed to pneumonia was the highest for many years and it may be noted that the deaths recorded under this heading outnumbered the cases notified. These figures, however, are not directly related as the deaths were mainly from non-notifiable forms of the disease. There were, in fact, very few deaths of notified cases.

Meningococcal Meningitis

The two reported cases of infective cerebro-spinal fever due to the meningococcus were successfully treated in hospital. They had no connection with each other, nor with any known source of infection. The necessary preventive measures were taken in relation to immediate contacts.

Two suspected cases of meningococcal infection were admitted to hospital for investigation and were later reported not to be so affected.

TABLE V

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR, 1958

	Cases notified in age periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	4	11	1	-	1	-	-	-	20	7	-
Whooping Cough	2	3	3	2	1	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	23	-	-
Measles	1	4	6	6	8	31	3	1	-	-	-	-	60	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	1	3	2	6	4	31	13	34
Pneumonia	1	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	4	9	13	13	14	60	6	3	4	2	8	4	140	25	35
Totals 1957	31	82	102	125	130	665	48	21	32	9	19	10	1274	38	27

Erysipelas

One notified case of erysipelas was treated at home and recovered satisfactorily.

One death was certified to be due to erysipelas; the case occurred in an institution for old people and had not been formally notified to the Public Health Department.

Other Diseases

Five cases of acute gastro-enteritis and three of suspected meningitis, which were thought to be infective in origin, were removed to hospital for investigation; laboratory examinations did not confirm the presence of an infecting agent in any of these cases.

Five Borough residents were reported to have been in contact elsewhere with confirmed cases of enteric fever. All were kept under surveillance until laboratory examination of specimens had established their freedom from infection. Similar action was taken in respect of two suspected cases of bacterial food poisoning.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VI, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs is by far the lowest observed in the Borough in the past twenty years and represents an incidence rate of 0.40 per 1,000 population, as compared with 0.60 in 1957, 0.51 in 1956 and an average rate of 0.66 in the preceding ten years. The decline in prevalence in 1958 was most marked amongst males in the older age groups.

The 4 reported cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis represent a case rate of 0.08, which is the same as in 1957, but is very considerably below the average for preceding years. Although the prevalence of this form of tuberculosis has been falling fairly steadily during the past thirty years, the decline has been much less rapid than in the case of tuberculosis of the respiratory organs.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 22 previously known cases of tuberculosis, all respiratory in type, who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

There were five deaths from respiratory and one from non-respiratory tuberculosis, the mortality in each instance being somewhat above that in the two preceding years, thus interrupting the steady fall in the death rate from this cause. Three of the cases had not been reported before death, including one in which the tuberculous infection was first discovered at post-mortem examination. The names of these fatal cases were removed from the register of tuberculous persons, together with those of 26 patients who had left the district, 13 who had completely recovered from the disease and 2 who, on further investigation, were found to be non-tuberculous.

At the end of the year there were 392 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 359 (207 males and 152 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 33 (15 males and 18 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic.

TABLE VI

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1958, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	3	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
25-35 years	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
35-45 years	4	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55 years	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
55-65 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
TOTALS	12	8	-	4	3	2	-	1
Totals 1957	24	6	3	1	2	1	-	-

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis)

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particular of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Over 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	426	31	27	24	508
Re-vaccination	-	7	16	148	171

It is of interest to report that the rate of acceptance of infant vaccination has been very well maintained; roughly 57.0 per cent. of the babies born in 1958 were successfully vaccinated against small-pox.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination was performed.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
456	70	13	7	8	15	1	570

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 449 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

Fewer children were immunised against diphtheria than in 1957, mainly because of concentration on the poliomyelitis vaccination programme. Nevertheless, the numbers who completed a course of immunisation represent a fairly satisfactory proportion of those eligible for treatment. The use of combined vaccines for simultaneous protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus was suspended during the summer months in view of their possible role in provoking the onset of poliomyelitis.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
447	63	11	4	4	6	-	535

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 60 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

As in the case of diphtheria immunisation, and for the same reason, the numbers vaccinated against whooping cough were somewhat smaller than in the previous year. It might again be mentioned that vaccination does not in every case afford absolute protection against whooping cough, though the vaccines now in use confer a high degree of immunity in a large proportion of cases, and greatly reduce the severity and duration of the illness in vaccinated children who are attacked.

Measles Prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. No request for serum was received during the year.

Vaccination against Tetanus

The County Council's immunisation arrangements now include vaccination against tetanus of children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. The tetanus vaccine may be given separately, but is often combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, thus reducing the number of inoculations and affording simultaneous protection against all three diseases. The number of persons vaccinated against tetanus in 1958 were as follows:-

0 - 5 years	410
5 - 15 years	19
Over 15 years	1
	<hr/>
	430

Reinforcing injections were given to 11 children who had previously completed a course of immunisation.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

For several years it has been the accepted practice to offer protective inoculation, by B.C.G. vaccine, to selected children from households in which there is an infectious case of tuberculosis. This work is undertaken mainly by the Chest Physicians, with occasional assistance from the Divisional Medical Staff.

This scheme has been extended to include thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and Independent schools. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G.vaccination. Testing was conducted at fifteen schools in the Borough during the year, with the following results:-

Number of pupils in age group	...	..	1130
Number consenting to treatment	..	..	731
Percentage consenting to treatment	..		64.7%
Number Mantoux tested	..	..	683
Number of negative reactors	..	..	606
Percentage giving negative reaction	..		88.7%
Number vaccinated	..	..	606
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated			100%

The proportion of eligible pupils who attended for skin testing and those who failed to react to the test showed wide variation at different schools, but in both cases were, on the whole, roughly the same as those recorded in other areas. The percentage of negative reactors vaccinated is especially satisfactory. The re-testing of vaccinated pupils has been discontinued in view of the very high proportion who have been found, in the past, to have acquired the desired level of immunity as a result of the B.C.G.vaccination.

In addition to the above, 91 pupils who had failed to keep appointments offered to them in 1957 were Mantoux tested; 80 of this group were negative reactors and were successfully vaccinated.

While the primary purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the usual practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

Apart from the routine skin testing and vaccination of thirteen-year-old pupils, a special investigation was conducted at a junior school following a report that a pupil who had recently been in attendance was found to have active tuberculosis of the lungs. Fifty-three pupils who may have been in contact with the case were skin tested; 4 who gave a positive reaction and 15 members of the teaching staff were referred for chest x-ray examination which, in every instance, was reported to be satisfactory. It was thought unlikely, therefore, that the affected pupil had contracted the disease at school, or had been the means of spreading infection to her teachers or classmates.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Protective inoculation against paralytic poliomyelitis has been included in the County Council's immunisation arrangements since the early part of 1956 and was, at that time, restricted to children between the ages of two and nine years. The scheme has since been extended to those between the ages of six months and fifteen years and, since September 1958, to those up to the age of twenty-five years, in addition to expectant mothers, medical practitioners and their families, ambulance personnel and others specially exposed to risk; at the same time it was advised that the course of immunisation should consist of three inoculations, instead of two as previously, the third being given about seven months after the second.

The difficulties encountered in the early stages of the scheme because of shortage of the British type vaccine then in use were largely overcome by the importation of Salk vaccine of American and Canadian manufacture, which was generally available in adequate quantities during 1958. This vaccine is packed in containers of nine or ten doses and is not, therefore, suitable for issue to medical practitioners for the immediate vaccination of individual patients.

The numbers vaccinated against poliomyelitis by their own doctors or at the County Council's clinics in 1958 are as follows:-

Children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years	6,209
Young persons between the ages of 16 and 25 years	169
Expectant mothers	138
Medical practitioners, hospital staff and families	120
Ambulance personnel	12
Third injections	1,835

Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the vaccination is performed.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources did not indicate undue prevalence of non-notifiable infection. The reported cases included 140 of chicken-pox, most of which occurred in a localised outbreak in the Merstham area in the early part of the year. There were also reports of 20 cases of mumps, which were confined to the Reigate district and to the months of November and December; three of these were recommended for admission to hospital as they could not be satisfactorily isolated at home.

On several occasions the staff of the Public Health Department assisted general medical practitioners by collecting and arranging for the laboratory examination of specimens from cases of acute infective tonsillitis which was thought to be caused by the organism of scarlet fever, though not presenting any of the other characteristic symptoms of that disease; the necessary precautions were taken in cases found to be so affected.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The incidence of infestation by head and body lice was exceptionally low. The reported cases were confined to nine school-children who had nits in their hair. In only two instances was the infestation of such degree as to warrant the exclusion of the children from school. The necessary cleansing was undertaken by the parents, with the assistance and advice of the Health Visitors, and it was not, therefore, necessary to resort to compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose.

An elderly resident of an adjoining district was found to be infested with body lice and was cleansed at the Corporation's Disinfecting Station prior to his admission to an institution for old people. The premises he had occupied and his clothing and other personal belongings were also suitably treated.

Scabies

Two adults and four children were reported to be suffering from scabies and were satisfactorily cleansed by the staff of the Health Department. Arrangements were made for the treatment of seven immediate contacts and for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing. The rate of prevalence of this type of uncleanliness also is unusually low.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1958

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Oakley and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-fifth Annual Report which relates to the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1958.

The year was notable for new legislation dealing with slaughterhouses and the implementation of recent legislation on atmospheric pollution. The former will be the means of abolishing scores of old and insanitary premises throughout the country, and enable this important industry, which will be brought under a reasonable measure of control by the Ministry and Local Authorities, to carry on its operations under modern hygienic conditions. This will benefit not only the industry, but also livestock owners, butchers, and consumers and will at last bring to an end the disgraceful conditions under which the slaughter of food animals and also subsequent dressing and handling of carcasses has been carried out in the past in many parts of the country. Such conditions have prevented efficient inspection of the meat before it has reached the retailer or the food manufacturer - a duty which has always been regarded as an important and essential aspect of public health administration. It will be seen in the Report that in this district we have been able, with the co-operation of the various interests concerned, to anticipate the new legislation, so that by informal action, by persuasion and argument - taking advantage of particular circumstances at opportune times over the years since the outbreak of war - we have been able to secure the abolition of our unsatisfactory slaughterhouses, and now have one in use which is a credit to the trade interests which sponsored its adaptation and modernisation.

Atmospheric pollution is a subject which has little public health significance in a country district of this character, but the Regulations which have been made under the new Act specifying maximum permissible periods for emissions of dark and black smoke under various circumstances, are proving of assistance when making the observations which are necessary in connection with complaints of smoke nuisance from particular factory chimneys, or during the routine observations which the Inspectors may make from time to time. Unfortunately there are no standards for the emission of soot, ash or grit, and complaints under these headings will continue to present difficulties in establishing proof of nuisance.

Steady progress was made throughout the year in the detailed inspection of unfit dwellings - a record number of these were demolished - and in effecting improvements in standards at food premises. No particular problem arose in connection with the sampling and inspection of foodstuffs generally. Once again the target of 100% meat inspection was achieved.

The Council's caravan site, the day-to-day administration of which has been entrusted to the Public Health Department since its inception in 1953, with responsibility to the Town Planning Committee, has continued to play a valuable part in controlling the use of caravans as permanent residences in the Borough. The site has been visited from time to time by representatives of other districts faced with the kind of problem which existed here a few years ago. Comment on the general lay-out and on the amenities provided for the caravaners has always been favourable. It is my view that if every inland rural or semi-rural district developed its own sites on similar lines, it would go a long way towards solving a difficult national problem.

Finally I must record that for four months of the year under review I was absent on sick leave; this put additional work on the staff, and I acknowledge with gratitude, particularly in the case of my Deputy, the willing and able way the situation was met. I thank, too, Dr. T.H.Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his kindness and patience during this period, and for his advice and support which I have been privileged to enjoy for a quarter of a century.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Oakley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G.JANES

Chief Public Health Inspector

26th August, 1959.

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 86 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food and, if possible, to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation continued to be carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This was done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose and which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work was also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given below and, unless otherwise indicated, relates to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc.:-

(1) Reigate Borough -

	<u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Infectious & Other Diseases	52	-
Vermin (Lice)	123	-
Miscellaneous	11	93
Rooms Disinfected	17	8
Rooms Disinfested	16	-

(2) Dorking & Horley R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	329	-
Vermin (Lice)	29	-

(3) Godstone R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	10	-
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In addition, 22 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries concerned.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, remained a rare occurrence. In 1958 one house was found to be slightly infested with bed-bugs, and three infested with fleas. All were successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Requests were received for assistance in treating five premises, namely a laundry, a furnishings shop, a nursing home and two dwelling-houses, which were found to be infested in varying degrees by cockroaches and other beetles; a liquid emulsion containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used in cases of this type, and has continued to prove an effective method of control. Infestations by flies in the roof spaces of two houses and woodworm infestations in three Council houses were also dealt with by spraying treatment. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

- (a) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, which were periodically treated for cockroaches, under contract arrangements with those authorities;
- (b) school canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority, which were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

An elderly man from an adjoining district was found to be infested with body lice and was cleansed at the Disinfecting Station, at the request of the local authority.

Three houses, occupied by elderly persons living alone, were found to be in an insanitary condition; assistance was given in cleansing and disinfection, followed by the removal of fouled material for destruction.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Fourteen applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences were granted at the beginning of the year.

No infringement of the Act was noted during 1958.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 62 to 79

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The slaughtering of food animals continued to be concentrated throughout 1958 at the Merstham slaughterhouse, occupied by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd. The two other small slaughterhouses, for which renewal licences were granted in January, remained unused for the whole period.

The licence for the West Road, Reigate, premises terminated on 30th September, concurrently with the ending of the lease held by the Master Butchers' Association since 1954; the Association acquired a lease on the premises for emergency use, but no occasion had arisen for its use for several years. The owner applied for a renewal of the licence so that he might himself carry on slaughtering for the wholesale trade. The premises were not designed for this class of trade, and considerable problems had occurred when such use was initiated and continued under Ministry control during and after the war. The application was, therefore, opposed and, after prolonged consideration, was refused by the Council.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, came into operation during the year; its main purpose is to enable the Ministry and Local Authorities to implement the policy of "moderate concentration" of slaughterhouses described in a recent Government White Paper, but it also gives powers to Local Authorities, by Regulations made under the Act, to enforce a proper standard of lay-out, construction and equipment of premises, and methods to be used to secure hygienic conditions and humane slaughter. So far as this Borough is concerned, "moderate concentration" was secured immediately after "decontrol" in 1954, when the local master butchers were advised to co-operate with one another, and did in fact form an Association or Company whereby they purchase their own livestock, slaughter it in their own slaughterhouse and retail the meat in their own shops. This arrangement has proved most successful, and has resulted in the closure (informally) of nearly all of the 14 private slaughterhouses which were in regular use before the war, and most of which were insanitary, primitive and badly sited. It is probable that by the end of 1959, the number mentioned above will have been reduced to one, namely, the one licensed at Merstham.

Meat inspection has continued to take up a greater proportion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors, but it is gratifying to record that 100% inspection has been achieved once again. No meat from animals slaughtered at the Merstham slaughterhouse leaves there until it has been inspected and passed as fit. The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 33 and 34. The number of animals slaughtered was slightly higher than in 1957. The incidence of disease generally was found to have increased, with the exception of tuberculosis which is now rarely found in cattle. There was a marked increase in the number of cattle found to be affected with "cysticercus bovis", a condition which may lead to the development of tapeworm in

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls and Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	772	11	120	204	456	3,112
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	772	11	120	204	456	3,112
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	2	7	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	332	-	58	2	28	849
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	43.0	9.1	48.3	2.0	7.7	27.6
	ø (20.6)	ø (9.1)	ø (24.2)	-	ø (6.8)	κ (7.2)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	1	-	-	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.13	-	.83	-	-	.90
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	-	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

ø Percentage excluding Distomatosis
κ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and
Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was
4 tons, 4 cwts.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions											TOTAL				
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy &/or Emaciation also Immaturity	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	Pneumonia		Cavernous Angioma	Miscellaneous		
BOVINES (excluding calves)	903																		
Whole Carcases and Offal					1														1
Part Carcase																			3
Heads and Tongues			1																18
Lungs						2													104
Livers and Part Livers																			301
Mesentery and Intestines			1																1
CALVES -	204																		2
Whole Carcases and Offal				1															1
Lungs																			1
Livers																			1
SHEEP -	456																		7
Whole Carcases and Offal				1															1
Part Carcases					5														1
Lungs																			13
Livers																			14
PIGS -	3,112																		10
Whole Carcases and Offal					2														3
Part Carcases																			30
Heads and Tongues			28																729
Lungs						110													125
Livers						1													9
Mesentery and Intestines			1																
TOTALS	4,675	-	31	2	8	115	2	3	2	218	104	65	246	536	8	33	1,373		

anyone eating the meat. It appears, therefore, that the routine detailed examination of beef carcasses which is necessary to reveal this condition must be continued with the same vigilance as since its inception shortly after the war.

In calculating the percentages of animals found on inspection to be affected by diseases, other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis, figures relating to cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke, and to pigs suffering from pneumonia or lung congestion, are disregarded, as these are common conditions which are not of much value for comparative statistical purposes.

The licensed knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, continued in operation throughout the year; in the main it was used for the cutting up of carcasses of animals received dead, few live animals being received. The premises were regularly inspected and a satisfactory standard of hygiene was maintained. The new regulations dealing with humane slaughter already mentioned, also relate to knackers' yards; in the main the premises at Three Arch Road comply with the new standards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the fitness of food is thought to be in doubt. Calls in the latter category continued to fall during the year, the trade generally having established an improved system of return and exchange for doubtful or unfit canned foods. Conversely, however, there is an increasing expenditure of time on investigation and inspection in connection with stale or out-of-condition foods, not necessarily always unfit. This is a logical outcome of the great extension in pre-packaging which has taken place since the war, with consequent dangers of prolonged storage in retail shops where there is an absence of any control of "turnover". Several of the complaints detailed below arose as a result of this problem, which could be solved by a standard coding of pre-packed foods, or some simple system which would assist distributive operatives and retailers alike to sell these goods in orderly sequence. It would certainly help Food Inspectors in their day-to-day investigations.

During 1958 the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works:-

Bacon	43 lbs.
Cheese	35 lbs.
Sugar and Preserves	14 lbs.
Flour	11 lbs.
Ham - canned	42 lbs.
Meat and Offal	2 cwts.
Meat - canned	2 cwts.
Paste (Meat and Fish)	18 jars and tins
Fish	7 cwts. 36 lbs.
Chicken	20
Tinned Fruit Pulp	6 tins (82 lbs)
" Fruit Juice	4 tins
" Beans	21 "
" Fruit	125 "
" Fish	9 "
" Milk	11 "
" Peas	31 "
" Soup	19 "
" Tomatoes	30 "
" Vegetables	6 "
Tinned & Packet food	
(miscellaneous)	13 tins and packets
Sweets and Chocolate	56 packets

This work involved 50 visits by the Inspectors.

Thirteen complaints were received from purchasers of food which was considered by them to be unfit, of unsatisfactory quality, or containing foreign material. All received detailed investigation. In six cases the complaints were considered to be unjustified; these related to tinned corned beef, two loaves of bread, pig's liver, a meat pie and a sausage roll. With two cases of mould - on a sausage roll and pork sausages - unsatisfactory features were revealed with respect to the turnover of stocks by the retailers, both of whom were warned. Dirt contamination in a loaf of bread was considered to be accidental, with no evidence of negligence on the part of the vendor. The four remaining complaints were that the foodstuffs in question contained foreign material, as follows:-
 mince pie (piece of wire), two loaves of bread (a metal staple and a used matchstick), and a jar of honey (material comprising iron oxide and part of an insect). Investigations did not reveal culpable negligence or serious defections in relation to the Food Hygiene Regulations, but in each case the vendors concerned were required to carry out improvements in premises or methods to minimise the risk of further extraneous contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Steady progress was made throughout the year in the inspection of food premises and the resultant follow-up work necessary to raise the level of hygiene both as respects premises and methods. There have been considerable strides achieved in the former, but the latter still lags well behind in many cases. Encouragement by example and education from the management side invariably means a high standard all round, but there is unfortunately still too much emphasis on the visible sale without a corresponding regard for the invisible hygiene service. A hardening of public opinion in this matter continues to be a helpful factor, but more education is necessary by the trade for food handlers generally.

The grocery trade is one where advantage has been taken of improved techniques in construction, design, layout and fittings, which has reaped its own reward. Cases where the methods lag woefully behind the standard of the premises are becoming increasingly rare in consequence

Primary inspections made at food premises were as follows:-

Catering Establishments	...	...	98
Bakehouses	...	...	31
Grocers	...	...	91
Butchers	...	...	40
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	...	...	18
Fishmongers	...	...	42
Confectioners	...	...	20
Vehicles and Stalls	...	...	4

Routine follow-up inspections under the Regulations involved
 286 visits.

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	...	...	...	102
Butchers, etc.	...	...	...	36
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	37
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	...	...	...	19
Confectioners (including 14 bakehouses)	...	...	...	109
Catering Establishments (including 70 Public Houses and 25 School canteen-kitchens)	...	...	...	175
Food Manufactories	...	...	...	6

Six hundred and forty-five visits of inspection were made to the above-named food premises.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1958.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	28	33
Fish-fryers	11	30
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	1	3
Total	40	66

(b) Manufacture and storage of ice-cream:

Confectioner, etc.	1	1
= Manufacture ceased early in the year.		

(c) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	79	12
Grocers, etc.	27	21
Fruiterers, etc.	4	2
Newsagents, etc.	3	2
Total	113	37

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 13 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

The arrangement was continued with the Borough Surveyor whereby plans of new shops, canteens, licensed premises, etc., submitted for bye-law approval, were examined in this Department and comment made on an aspect of public health legislation necessarily involved. Co-operation by architects and builders has been generally good.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 89-99 - Sampling and Analysis

One hundred and ten samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities and were reported, with one exception, to be satisfactory. The exception concerned the labelling of a pre-packed meringue powder which contained no milk solids, although these were included in the list of ingredients stated on the label. The term "milk solids" was not an appropriate designation for skimmed milk powder used in this product. It appeared that another Food & Drugs Authority in Surrey was already corresponding with the firm in question, and revision of the label had been promised. Later stocks were found to bear a satisfactory revised label and no further action was necessary.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. Thirty-two visits of inspection were made and food traders concerned were found to be complying with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted related to the marking of imported meat, apples and tomatoes, but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders secured correct marking.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

(a)	With 3 dairies in the Borough	...	...	...	2
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	...	...	...	6
(c)	With premises in the Borough	....	...	...	16
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)				

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies were made during the year, with special attention to the last mentioned one; they were maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the period. As has applied for several years now all milk sold in the Borough must be heat-treated, with the exception of farm-bottled tuberculin-tested milk. Frequent samples of the various grades were taken on a regular sampling basis, and results were without exception satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk taken in 1958 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hair-dresser or barber in the Borough are subject to bye-laws made in 1954 under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1958 no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted, but owing to pressure of other work it was only possible to make 8 inspections, involving 6 premises. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 20 men's and 25 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1937

The Table on page 39 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 224 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 236 entries; in 31 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 28 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention to defects in 8 of the above cases which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

In accordance with Section 34 relating to means of escape in case of fire, four factories - which are now subject to these provisions - were examined and certificates issued, after the carrying out of minor alterations considered necessary in three of them. Three factories were re-examined at the request of the occupiers, in consequence of alterations which had been made to the premises; amended certificates were issued. As is customary in such cases the examinations were made in consultation with a Fire Prevention Officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1958.

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories
on Register at end of 1958

	<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	2	-
Art Leather Works	1	-
Bakers	15	-
Basket Work	1	-
Book Binder	1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers	6	-
Brick Makers, etc	3	-
Builders and Contractors	6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	7	1
Cork Disc and Insulation Manufacturers	3	-
Corn and Seed Merchants	3	-
Dairy (Milk Processing)	1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners	2	3
Dry Cleaners	3	-
Engineers Automobile	22	-
Engineers Electrical	3	2
Engineers Light	35	-
Essence Makers	1	-
Food Manufactures	5	-
Foundries	2	-
Fullers Earth Works	1	-
Gas Holder Stations	2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing	1	-
Hardware Assembly	1	-
Hearthstone Works	1	-
Hide Tanning	1	-
Knacker's Yard	-	1
Laundries	4	-
Log Sawing	1	-
Marquee and Tarpaulin Repairers	1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturer	1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	-	2
Motor Body Repairs	6	-
Motor Cycle and Cyle Repairs	3	3
Newspaper Fudging	3	-
Oil Refining	1	-
Photographic Works, etc	2	-
Precast Concrete Manufacturers	1	-
Printers	9	-
Public Works Contractor	1	-
Radio Repairs	-	1
Rubber Trimming	1	-
Rust Proofing	1	-
Sanitary Engineers	1	2
Scale Repairers	2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths	-	2
Shop Fitters	1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly	-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturer	1	-
Suitcase Manufacturer	1	-
Tailors	2	2
Thermometer Manufacturer	1	-
Timber Merchants	3	-
Watchmakers	2	1
Wax Refining Works	1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	29	-
TOTALS	<u>211</u>	<u>25</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adversely Reported upon
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	3	6	6	8	23	23	-
Ice-cream	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Butter	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cream	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Sausages - Pork	3	-	1	2	6	6	-
Sausages - Beef	1	-	-	2	3	3	-
Minced Steak	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Meat Pies	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Fishcakes	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Meat & Fish Pastes	1	1	2	1	5	5	-
Flour	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Tables Jellies	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Dried Fruit, Peel etc.	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
Jams, Honey, etc.	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Mincemeat	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Vinegar	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Sauces & Pickles	8	1	2	8	19	19	-
Tea	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	1	-	5	-	6	6	-
Custard & Blancmange Powders	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Meringue Powder	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Almonds, Ground	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Cinnamon, Ground	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Ginger, Ground	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Curry Powder	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Foods, Miscellaneous	3	-	1	1	5	5	-
Beer	2	-	1	2	5	5	-
Whisky	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Gin	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Drugs, various	3	1	2	3	9	9	-
TOTALS	32	11	30	37	110	109	1

Housing Act, 1957Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 and Rent Act, 1957Housing Subsidies Act, 1956Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

Detailed work in connection with the inspection of unfit houses was continued throughout the year; 161 houses were inspected for all purposes, 36 were reported to the Council as unfit for human habitation and, as a result of earlier action, 51 houses were demolished. Preparatory work was carried out in connection with two clearance areas involving 17 houses, and a similar area of 32 houses was dealt with, 16 of these being later certified as unfit by the Medical Officer of Health, as they were already in the ownership of the Council.

A comparatively common feature of the transfer of families from unfit and sub-standard dwellings to modern accommodation used to be the problem of vermin (bed-bug and flea) infestation, with the consequent need for thorough disinfection prior to rehousing. With the post-war improvement of living standards and health education, and more efficient methods of control of these pests, such infestations are now rare. No such case arose during 1958, but inspections are made as necessary in this connection before rehousing takes place.

The number of applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, fell during 1958, when fourteen of these applications were received, as compared with twenty-seven in 1957. One of these was later withdrawn and the remainder were granted; the owners concerned gave undertakings to have the necessary works carried out in eight of these cases.

In the past decade the number of new houses built and existing ones modernised in the Borough is upwards of 3,500, whilst in the same period 135 unfit houses have been demolished or closed. This represents a considerable overall rise in housing standards, and, as the trend continues, houses without such amenities as a bathroom, internal water closet, instant hot water supply, and satisfactory food storage facilities, will become very much in the minority. In this connection it may be noted that during the year 62 applications for Improvement Grants were referred by the Borough Surveyor to this Department for observations. In consequence of all this activity in housing it is hoped that the time may not be far distant when a revised and enforceable "standard of fitness" will have regard to the amenities above-mentioned.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order deals with the inspection and licensing of boiling-plants used by collectors of waste food for animal feeding. Such waste food may spread foot-and-mouth and other animal diseases if not properly boiled for at least one hour. No new applications were received in this connection during 1958. Inspections were continued at the premises already licensed, and it was found that the requirements of the Order were being satisfactorily observed.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	49
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	-
House drainage	..	..	..	..	17
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	3
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies	..	..	..	..	1
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	4
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	1
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	271
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc)	..	..	..	..	9
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	2
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	15
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	180
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	13
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	9
Factories	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	65

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -					
Outstanding on 1st January, 1958	..	..	..	..	98
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	203
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	196
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1958	..	..	..	..	105
Statutory -					
Outstanding on 1st January, 1958	..	..	..	..	-
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	-
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1958	..	..	..	..	-

Fairground Sanitation

Frequent visits of inspection were made to fairs and circuses operating for short periods on land in the Borough. Temporary sanitary accommodation is erected and an emptying and cleansing service provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a daily charge is levied. In consequence of the close supervision exercised in these cases and the services now automatically provided, the improvement on these sites continues to be marked. As a result no nuisance arose during the year.

Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

Consequent on the introduction of this legislation, which deals with safety guards for electric, gas and oil space-heating appliances, it is rare to see an unsatisfactory heater offered for sale. Inspections carried out during 1958 revealed no contravention of the standards laid down.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
		<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>#</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agric-</u> <u>ult-</u> <u>ural</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u>	
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district	28	15,065	50	2,451	17,594
II.	No. of properties inspected during 1958 as a result of:-					
	(a) Notification	10	212	7	42	271
	(b) Survey	18	344	34	91	487
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for another purpose)	-	98	5	452	555
III.	Total inspections, including re-inspections	122	1,298	70	825	2,315
IV.	No. of properties inspected (under II) found to be infested by:-					
	(a) Rats	16	158	9	46	229
	(b) Mice	1	33	-	9	43
V.	No. of infested properties (under IV) treated by Local Authority	17	186	9	54	266
VI.	No. of "block control" schemes carried out	-	48	-	-	48

* Council houses are included under dwelling houses.

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork(houses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Other causes of dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
External paintwork renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Sink gully dishings renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Blocked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
New W.Cs. installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Floors, windows and doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fireplaces repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food stores provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sinks renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Washhand basins renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Water supply pipes repaired or installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Baths installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Dustbins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Food Premises

Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Drainage system improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Ret-proofing carried out..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Washhand basins installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sinks renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Constant hot water supply installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dustbins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Factories

Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Rooms cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

Other Business Premises

Blocked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Drainage system improved or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

It is gratifying to note that there was a decrease in infestations revealed and dealt with during the year. This is no doubt a result of intensive and systematic control measures carried out in recent years, and the greater efficiency of the poisons and other rodenticides available. In consequence, the Pest Officers were able to devote more time to detailed inspections, surveys, and the carrying out of "block control" schemes, these latter in areas where small rodent infestations had been confirmed. In general co-operation with occupiers was good and in no case was statutory action necessary in carrying out inspection or treatment of infested properties. The service continued to be available to householders at a nominal charge of 2/6d. an hour, with a minimum charge of 5/-d., no charge being made for inspections and advice. At business premises, on the contrary, the occupier is expected to meet the full cost of the work carried out, a minimum charge of 15/-d. or the actual cost (on the basis of 10/-d. an hour) whichever is the greater. As an indication of the success of this system no case was reported where an occupier chose not to take advantage of the service.

Routine treatment of the sewerage of the Borough was carried out twice during the year, when results of test made and poisoning carried out were satisfactory. These revealed that rat infestation in the sewers had been virtually eliminated. Of 446 manholes tested only three were found to give evidence of a local infestation, in each case cleared by systematic poisoning. The Pests Officers continued to maintain regular and effective control at the Council's Refuse and Sewage Disposal Works, and of the banks of the stream or brook which flows through Redhill and Earlswood.

Notification was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food that grants to Local Authorities would cease at the end of the financial year and that the rodent control service organised and administered by the Ministry for farms and other agricultural holdings would be discontinued. In consequence, it was arranged that early in 1959 these agricultural premises would be visited and inspected, and where applicable the services of the Pests Officer would be offered on a contract basis, as previously operated by the Ministry.

The control work already detailed was exclusive of that carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary homes, 32 schools and 13 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

Apart from this rodent control work, the Pests Officers were engaged at Corporation property in dealing with other pests, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers, moles, etc; one-hundred-and-eighty wasps nests were destroyed during the summer period; the routine trapping of pigeons was continued in the centre of Redhill, where they were again causing nuisance by nesting on certain buildings.

